

REIMBURSEMENT OF NAVY PERSONNEL AND FORMER
NAVY PERSONNEL FOR PROPERTY LOST AT LONG
ISLAND, ALASKA

DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 15), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WALSH of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Naval Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 3605]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3605) to provide for reimbursement of certain Navy personnel and former Navy personnel for personal property lost or damaged as the result of fires in tents used as quarters by members of the Twelfth Naval Construction Battalion, Long Island, Alaska, on December 26, 1942 and May 26, 1943, respectively, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$6,562.47, or such portion thereof as may be necessary to pay claims of certain Navy personnel and former Navy personnel for personal property lost or damaged as the result of fires occurring in tents used as quarters by members of the Twelfth Naval Construction Battalion on December 26, 1942, and May 26, 1943, respectively.

The Twelfth Naval Construction Battalion was housed in tents on Long Island, Alaska, which tents were used as living quarters by members of the battalion. On December 26, 1942, while the men were out on working detail and absent from their quarters, a fire occurred, the origin of which has not been determined. As a result of such fire 81 members of the battalion lost personal property valued by the Navy Department Claims Board in the amount of \$5,826.01.

On May 26, 1943, another fire occurred in the tent occupied by said battalion under similar circumstances to those existing in the case of the previous one. The members of the battalion were on this day likewise absent on working detail and the fire was of undetermined origin. Six members of the battalion lost their personal effects in

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this second fire, valued by the Navy Department claims board at \$736.46. The aggregate amount found by the Board covering claims for the two fires is \$6,562.47, the amount named in the bill.

There is no other authority of law by virtue of which the claims may be adjusted.

The Navy Department is of the opinion that provision should be made for the payment of these claims, in that the personnel involved were assigned to duty at said station by orders of the Navy Department and the loss of and damage to their property occurred without fault or negligence on their part.

The additional cost to the Government should this bill be enacted into law, would not exceed \$6,562.47.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Navy Department and has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget.

